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Book Reviews -- Monographic Musings

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mology, space-time, game theory and artificial intelligence. There are also entries that discuss the careers and contributions of principal theoreticians ranging from **Jules Henri Poincare** to **Karl Popper** and from **Thomas Kuhn** to **John Searle**. The articles are substantial in length ranging from 3000 -7500 words and each ends with an impressive bibliography and a list of "see also" references to related articles. The general index is well constructed and helpful. The binding of this two-volume set is solid and should hold up well while the print font is clear and easy to read. As befitting the subject, the writing is academic and scholarly and some articles require careful reading, especially for those not very familiar with the concepts discussed.

The *Philosophy of Science: an Encyclopedia* is worth serious consideration from academic libraries needing resources that cover this sub-discipline of philosophy. It also serves to update and supplement more general reference works and will be of value to those needing comprehensive coverage in their philosophy collections. However, a lot of the material here is covered in **Routledge's**

acclaimed ten-volume *Encyclopedia of Philosophy* so some libraries already owning this set, or having a subscription to the online version, may want to forgo this new title. (For further details on the **Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy** check their Website at <http://www.routledge.com/>.)

The Qur'an: an Encyclopedia (2006, 0415326397, \$225) is another **Routledge** title that deserves comment. Given the growing interest in Islam, it will be viewed by many as timely and relevant. Articles on concepts, beliefs, figures, and places related to the Qur'an are covered. Entries on forgiveness, grace and repentance join those on marriage and shahada (martyrdom) along with articles on **Ibrahim (Abraham)** and **Yahya (John the Baptist)**. There are also articles treating broader topics like the origins of the Qur'an and its relationship to the natural world, historic events, education, language and science. Many of the entries are short, providing brief descriptions and definitions, but others can be five pages or more in length with multi-citation bibliographies. In addition, there is a bibliographic essay at the end of the book highlighting other significant reference sources, as well as providing lists of recommended books and articles divided by subject category. There is also a "How to use

this encyclopedia" section containing useful explanations, as well as an index to Qur'anic passages. And although the entries are in a straight alphabetical listing there are name and subject indexes. Unfortunately there is no thematic index but there are "see" and "see also" references.

The Qur'an: an Encyclopedia offers a scholarly but accessible one-volume work that will serve as a useful starting point for students and informed lay readers alike. Editor **Oliver Leaman** and his 42 contributors not only provide answers to specific questions but also attempt to stimulate thoughtful consideration of the commentary and interpretation presented. **Mr. Leaman** purposefully includes "accounts that often go against each other in order to illustrate to readers the contested nature of interpretation that exists in a subject area." No doubt a worthy goal and it reinforces the role of *The Qur'an: an Encyclopedia* as a starting point. The Qur'an is a complex and important topic and serious students should make use of the bibliographies provided in this work, as well as seek out more comprehensive references like **Jane Dammen McAuliffe's Encyclopedia of the Qur'an** (2001-2006, 9004147438, \$1674) published by **Brill**. (For more information on the online version see <http://www.brill.nl/default.aspx?partid=18&pid=24338>.)

Book Reviews — Monographic Musings

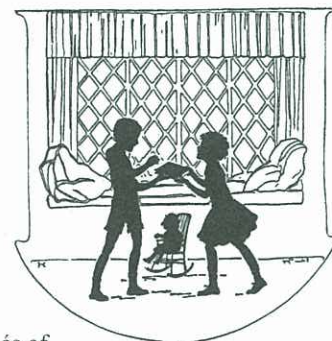
Column editor **Debbie Vaughn** (College of Charleston) <vaughnd@cofc.edu>

Column Editor's Note: At an accreditation and assessment institute last week, I had the pleasure of hearing **Charleston Southern University Library Director Enid R. Causey** discuss the quality enhancement efforts of her institution. When explaining why she, a librarian, was chosen as the head honcho of **CSU's** accreditation endeavors, she made a poignant remark: libraries, and therefore librarians, serve everyone. This statement has stuck with me for days, and my mind continues to reflect upon the weight and breadth of **Causey's** words. Libraries serve everyone at all stages of life. Furthermore, it is the "everyone" in the library-service equation that allows librarians to maintain such an integral role in society.

The books and their reviewers in this month's **Monographic Musings** illustrate this idea of libraries' magnetic qualities. As stockers and spreaders of information, librarians lead readers, historians, educators, linguists, other librarians, and "students of life" to

learn about segregation, linguistics, etymology, and the function and responsibility of the very libraries in which they work.

Many thanks to faithful **ATG** reviewer **Phillip Powell** for gracing our pages with his thoughts on **R. Scott Baker's Paradoxes of De-segregation**. I'd like to extend a hearty welcome to **ATG** newcomers **Michael Andrews**; **Jane Tuten**, director of the **University of South Carolina - Aiken's Gregg-Graniteville Library**; and **Pamela I. Niesslein**, a linguist by education and the **College of Charleston's Associate Vice President for Accountability and Accreditation**. Happy reading, everyone! — **DV**



the habitués of journal publishing.

Let Them Eat Cake is a **Tom Sharpeian** romp (soon to be followed by a sequel) loosely based on the intersecting worlds of scientific research, scholarly publishing and the food supplement business set at the end of the print era and before the World Wide Web. The story moves between the luxuri-

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Angus, Tom. Let Them Eat Cake! A Novel. Bloomington, IN: AuthorHouse, 2005. 1420810480 (paperback); 1420810499 (electronic book). 332 pages. \$14.50 (paperback); \$4.95 (electronic book).

Reviewed by **Michael Andrews** (RSL)

In 1899 **Sir Edward Elgar** premiered his breakthrough orchestral work *Variations on an Original Theme* (now known as the *Enigma Variations*) in which he created sound portraits of his cryptically identified "friends pictured within." *Let Them Eat Cake* will

have a similar fascination for those involved in STM publishing, many of whom are also to be found "pictured within" — more or less thinly disguised, since the author, hidden like this reviewer under a *nom de plume*, will be familiar to readers of *Against the Grain* and

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ous realms of the retreats of the "Newtonian Academy of Scholarly Publishing," the fantastical, ultimate jock-campus of **Bear State University**, California (with its Todd Institute for Wind-surfing and Moleculetics), and various conferences in the field of "Moleculetics," an arch way of describing chemical synthesis. It swarms with a host of eccentric characters: from villains like the crazed Belgian accountant turned publishing director, **Henri de Klompenmaker**, of the nefarious and multi-tentacled SI Corporation; the egregiously grasping and third-rate **Professor Les Fyfe**, of the **University of Rochdale**, Editor *ad interim* of *Transactions in Moleculetics*; to the heroine **Dr. Fiona Hamilton**, who helps cause their very public downfall through the application of sound publishing principles and the assistance of the aged Nobel laureate **Sir Henry Wiseman** and his formidable wife, **Alberta** (who attributes her good health in her eighties to her "daily trampolining sessions").

Like any first novel, and especially, it must be said, self-published novels, the lack of an independent, strict copy-editor becomes apparent from time to time with small slips of verbal agreement and occasional continuity lapses (as well as rather unconvincing cod northern British accents and attitudes) but these are compensated by the brio of the plotting and the often baroque amusing style of the writing. Occasional



longeurs are enlivened by streaks of wit, with wry observations about the wealthy Californian ladies-who-lunch particularly well-done. Most readers will enjoy it for what it is and take it at face value, but those who have worked in the world that it parodies will recognise many episodes as built upon true nuggets of experience from science publishing in the late 1980s. Which bits are exaggerated and which true? Well, that has to be left as a cocktail-hour exercise for *ATG* regulars at the next Charleston Conference!

Baker, R. Scott. *Paradoxes of Desegregation: African American Struggles for Educational Equity in Charleston, South Carolina, 1926-1972.* Columbia, SC: U of South Carolina P, 2006. 1570036322. \$39.95.

Reviewed by **Phillip Powell** (Reference Librarian, College of Charleston)
<powellp@cofc.edu>

Growing up in the Midwest during the 1950s and 1960s, this reviewer was aware of the struggles for equality of African Americans in the South as illustrated either in *Life* or *Look* or in black and white film footage on the evening news. Charleston was never among cities of-

ten in the media glare such as Birmingham, Atlanta, Montgomery, and Memphis. Racial segregation permeated life in Charleston as thoroughly as any other Southern city, but the dynamics among and between the black and white communities were unique. These dynamics are

explored by **R. Scott Baker** in this often compelling history.

Baker centers on four educational institutions and their evolution toward desegregation: **Society Corner School** (James Island), **Avery Institute** and **Burke High School** (peninsula Charleston), and **South Carolina State College** (Orangeburg). Each school represents a major segment of Charleston's African American population from the 1920s through the 1960s. **Society Corner** was the poor rural school where students attended only through 7th grade, if they got that far. It was not until the likes of strong-

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willed individuals such as **Mamie Garvin Fields** and **Septima Clark** did changes begin to occur. Also, Federal programs helped significantly to allow students to go into Charleston to attend **Burke**. Initially, **Burke** was a training school instead of an academic high school. **Avery Institute** was the private school where Charleston's black middle class attended. Not under the auspices of the local school board, **Avery** students were given a more traditional classical education which prepared them for either **South Carolina State** or other black colleges in the Southeast. It was at **South Carolina State** where pressure was made on the statewide white establishment for equality in higher education.

The parrying between the black and white communities, although not violent as in other Southern cities, had its own insidious qualities. The white power structure proved to be intractable to any overtures for change from the black community. Although seemingly monolithic, the community was torn by class and economics. This was illustrated by the problems both

at **Avery** and at **Burke**. The angles are seemingly endless. A particularly poignant example is that of **SC State**. For decades, it was basically ignored by the South Carolina state government and received scant funding. At the same time, though, as students were demanding entrance into previously all-white institutions such as the **University of South Carolina**, the state began pouring money into **SC State** in order to maintain the separate but equal [emphasis added] status quo. **Baker** describes and interweaves the story in a well-written narrative filled with first person accounts and much documentation.

Residing in Charleston and knowing the state of desegregation in the public schools, this reviewer is confronted with a double-edged situation. So much of the residue from 1926 to 1972 remains in Charleston schools today. Perhaps there was a bit of a letdown when the book ended. There is so much more to tell. Not everyone will agree with every interpretation **Baker** sets forth, but this is a very good, very readable chronicle of how African American schools were in early and mid-20th Century Charleston. Perhaps there should be a next book?

Crystal, David. *Words, Words, Words.* New York: Oxford University Press, 2006.
0198614446. \$25.00.
and

Hole, Georgia. *The Real McCoy: The True Stories Behind Our Everyday Phrases.*
New York: Oxford University Press, 2005. 0192806114. \$19.95.

Reviewed by **Pamela I. Niesslein, PhD** (Associate Vice President for Accountability and Accreditation, College of Charleston) <niessleinp@cofc.edu>

Linguists are endlessly fascinated by words. But then again, many non-linguists are also intrigued by the lexical world. Babies trying to talk will use the same words and phrases over and over as they become familiar with the mouth feel and sound of the words in their native language. Parents spend endless hours repeating words to help them learn. Teachers will define and redefine concepts and words in order to enable their students to master the concepts under discussion. Linguists, however, usually study words out of the pure pleasure it brings to learn "how things work" in a language. How is language built? How many words are there in Swahili? How do words evolve over time? What are the newest words that have been added to our lexicon?

In his book *Words, Words, Words*, **David Crystal**, a linguist, delves deeply into the "word," in all its parts, uses, misuses, growth, and panache. He looks at the universe of words (Part I), the origins of words (Part II), the diversity of words (Part III), the evolution of words (Part IV), the enjoyment of words (Part V), and becoming a word detective (Part VI) in his very aptly titled book *Words, Words, Words*. Even for this linguist, it was a lot of words to contemplate! Each of the 25 chapters has "word" in the title (e.g., wordstarts, wordsounds, wordbirths, and a personal favorite, wordmelodies). In chapter one, "Wordsmithery," **Crystal** begins by ac-

knowledging that "[w]e live in a universe of words, and we know it. We even have names for those who are aware that they live in this universe and who have become mildly or seriously obsessed by it. We call them wordsmiths, word-buffs, wordaholics" (3).

The Real McCoy: The True Stories Behind Our Everyday Phrases explores this world of words from a very different angle, one perhaps more suited to both the linguist and non-linguist alike than its counterpart, *Words, Words, Words*. In *The Real McCoy*, **Georgia Hole's** alphabetical listing of phrases strives to understand "the metaphorical expressions and allusions [that] give life and vibrancy to language..." (1).

the kiss of death (page 97—note all definitions below come from this text)
an action or event causing certain failure for an enterprise

Although this phrase is relatively recent, with examples dating back only to the 1940s, it is thought to refer to an episode in the *Bible*. According to the biblical account, **Judas Iscariot** identified **Jesus** to soldiers out to arrest him by greeting him with a kiss. The expression is often used of apparently beneficial or well-meaning actions which somehow tempt fate and have the opposite result to that intended, as in the following example from *The Guardian*: "Let us hope that the critics' approval does

not, at the box office, prove a kiss of death."

When one reads, there are always expressions that are worth additional research in order to fully enjoy the etymology of a phrase. Sometimes this research can clarify meanings, while in other instances it merely adds the "spice" to the phrase that comes from truly understanding origins and meanings. It doesn't take a linguist to hear an expression of this sort and to wonder: Where did that phrase come from? What does it really mean?

run the gamut (page 72, *The Real McCoy*)

experience or display the complete range of something

The origins of this expression can be traced back to medieval music. *Gamut* was originally the name of the lowest note in the medieval scale, but the term also came to be applied to the whole range of notes used. In the 17th century it escaped from its musical context and came to mean the complete range of a particular thing: the American critic and humorist **Dorothy Parker** was being less than kind about **Katharine Hepburn's** acting skills when she remarked: "She ran the whole gamut of emotions from A to B."

The true beauty of this book is that it is accessible to all wordsmith "wannabees" as well as those who are researching from a more scholarly aspect.

Words, Words, Words does include examples of the type of lexicography that is the subject of *The Real McCoy*. In his chapter on wordsmithery, **Crystal** traces the origins of the expression a "404 Error," or a "404," which comes from the Internet error that appears when "your browser has made a faulty request to a server, typically because a page or site no longer exists." But, he asks, why is this error called a "404"? "The expression derives from the 'file not found' message sent out as a response to a faulty enquiry by staff at **CERN**, in Switzerland — the place where the World Wide Web was devised. The members of the staff worked out of room 404" (7).

In addition, **Crystal** talks about how and why we learn words. How does a child build his/her vocabulary (wordgrowth)? How do we add vocabulary to our adult language (wordbuilding)? How do we build vocabularies that include foreign words and phrases (worddiversity and wordloans)? How do new words come into being (wordbirths)? What are the top fifty most beautiful words in the English language (wordmelodies)? These are the preoccupations of the linguist who seeks to cover the concept and definition of the "word" exhaustively and conclusively.

the real McCoy (inexplicably alphabetized under "M" on page 110)

the real thing

The source of this expression is far from clear: the trouble is that *McCoy* is a rather common surname and so there are numerous candidates for the post of the original *McCoy*. The earliest example of the phrase, dating from 1856, is Scottish, uses the form *Maccay*, and describes a brand of whisky: "a drappie [drop] o' the real

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McKay.” By the early 20th century recorded examples have the *McCoy* spelling and are American. Some of the uses still refer to whisky or other alcoholic drink, though the expression is described as coming from Canada: this is perhaps not so strange, as many Scots emigrated there. Other examples illustrate the more general current sense of “the real thing.” One candidate for the title “the real *McCoy*” is **Elijah McCoy**, inventor of a machine for lubricating train engines and a lawn sprinkler. Possibly the favorite, however, is one **Norman Selby**, aka **Charles “Kid” McCoy**. He was an American boxer who became welterweight champion in 1896 after knocking out **Tommy Ryan**, his sparring partner, to whom he had previously pretended to be ill and unfit. Apparently he often used this trick of feigning illness, only to ap-

pear fighting fit on the day itself, prompting commentators to wonder whether this was *the real McCoy*.

Now that may be more information than you wanted to know, but for the really curious among us, it provides word origins in as complete a manner as possible.

To me as a linguist and to me as a reader and speaker of languages, words hold an endless fascination. I like the sound of them, the look of them, and the feel of them. I enjoy the hot pursuit of just the “right” word in a conversation or in a book review. I love to know where words come from, and I like to learn more about the subject of words. In my mind, these two works, *Words, Words, Words* and *The Real McCoy* are a joy to read. They both offer an intriguing peek into the world of words...an idiosyncratic (now there’s a word!) view of the lexical world around us...a fascinating insight into meaning and lexicography.

Maxwell, Nancy Kalikow. *Sacred Stacks: The Higher Purpose of Libraries and Librarianship*. Chicago: ALA, 2006. 0838909175. 168 pages. \$32.00.

Reviewed by Jane Tuten (Library Director, University of South Carolina - Aiken)
<JaneT@usca.edu>

The cover story to the May 2006 issue of *American Libraries* **Nancy Maxwell’s** book, *Sacred Stacks*, certainly caught my eye and my interest. As I read the short two page article, I thought that the premise for her book was quite intriguing and that I might like to read her obviously ambitious work. **Maxwell**, who in addition to an MLS holds a master’s degree in Catholic theology, presents a well-organized and thought-provoking look at two seemingly unrelated areas — libraries/librarianship and churches/ministers. Her arguments reinforce both the value and importance of librarians and libraries in today’s society.

In the preface to the book **Maxwell** explains to us why she wrote the book and recounts an incident that took place when she worked at a Catholic college. When addressed as “Sister,” she began to think about how her position as a librarian paralleled the role that ministers serve. The secular library space also parallels the sacred space of a church, generating many of the same feelings among those present. The genesis of the book began at that point and became her mission. The book reinforces many of the arguments made by **Maxwell** and provides a compari-

son between two institutions that provide support and solace. The library and the church offer safe havens within their communities.

Maxwell communicates what she believes the higher purposes of libraries and librarians are in the titles of each chapter. Libraries and librarians perform sacred functions, organize chaos, bestow immortality, uplift individuals and society, provide sacred and secular space, promote community, and transmit culture. The chapter titles provide hints to the reader but nothing really prepares you for the intellectual stimulation provided within each chapter. There are powerful arguments made and they are supported with historical facts along with philosophy, theology, and social science theory.


The first chapter provides a brief history of libraries while outlining a current context for religion in America. **Maxwell** provides examples of sacred, secular venues and explains how culture merges the sacred and secular through language and ritual. One example given is the “pilgrimage” many families take to **Disney World**. Another is the “confessional” nature of television talk shows.

Chapter two addresses the functions per-

formed by librarians and clergy and explained some similarities. Personality traits such as those measured by the **Myers-Briggs** test were analogous in the two groups. The chapter generalizes about the demographics and values of librarians. **Maxwell** examines the topics of organizing chaos and how librarians and libraries tackle the vast amount of knowledge that they are tasked with organizing in chapter three. Throughout the chapter religious symbolism is applied to society while the library is depicted as the place where wisdom resides. **Maxwell** likens wisdom to **God** and points us toward a “rational order of the universe.”

Chapters four and five draw the reader in with the powerful imagery of immortality and permanence that reside in two institutions — the library and religion. Subjects discussed include the immortality of words both spoken and written upon which religions rely, the importance of citations in literature and religion, ownership versus access, religious freedom of choice, contemporary sin and the need for success in today’s society, libraries and social change, liberation theology, and the library’s place in the search for “self-improvement, self-fulfillment, and self-help.” **Maxwell** submits arguments which support the thesis that libraries and religion are participants in societal change and examines the idea that libraries might be dangerous places.

The author writes that both libraries and churches are environments which people enter alone but which are communal spaces. **Maxwell** labels these public private spaces — an intriguing idea and concept. Perhaps more than any other chapter, chapter six draws the reader into the space concept by providing clear illustrations. The author outlines similarities that exist between churches and libraries such as the private space which carrels offer. Carrels, according to **Maxwell**, were originally private spaces in monasteries where monks could read or write. The author examines the placement of libraries and churches in the center of their communities and the importance of that central location for the community.

The final chapters in this short book continue to expand the arguments made by the author supporting the similarities between libraries and churches. Thought-provoking, intriguing, challenging, and validating are all words that should be used when referring to **Maxwell’s** book. Librarians and students contemplating librarianship would be well advised to read this short but powerful book. 

Rumors
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States” by **Scott Carlson**, *Chronicle of Higher Education*, 25 August 2006. chronicle.com/free/2006/08/2006082501t.htm

Copyright Clearance Center (CCC) has announced that *The Wall Street Journal* has begun licensing graphical images through

Rightslink(R), CCC’s automated copyright permissions and reprint solution. The new offering provides content users a simple means of ordering *Journal* branded maps, charts and illustrations from the *Journal*. This also includes framed versions of its famous illustrations of subjects of *Journal* stories, called “hedcuts,” that come complete with delivery and billing. Hedcuts and other graphical content from *The Wall Street Jour-*

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OCLC Online Computer Library Center has acquired DiMeMa (Digital Media Management), the organization that developed and supports CONTENTdm, the digital man-

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